

THE MARION DAILY MIRROR

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OVER THE KEYS BY RAIL.

Henry M. Flagler's railway "over the sea" to Key West is considered next to the Panama canal the greatest accomplishment of engineering genius of our country. This road has been constructed over the Florida Keys, a chain of islands extending from the coast of Florida 128 miles to the south and 75 miles of it is over water. It cost \$20,000,000 and will cost much more to complete the plans begun. Mr. Flagler summoned to this work the greatest engineers of the world and it is a masterly triumph of engineering skill. It brings this country a couple hours nearer Havana and whole trains can be shipped from either shore thus saving the expense of shifting bulk. Some very scientific systems of dredging and pumping were devised to make this great causeway practically through the ocean. Whether it will pay or not is a question but as Mr. Flagler had the money he could make the experiment at his own expense and it need concern nobody so far as the financial part of it matters. Not a dollar of government aid was ever solicited so far as we have ever heard. Flagler was one of Rockefeller's partners who had gold piled into his banks so fast he couldn't dispose of it in ordinary affairs. Like Henry H. Rogers in his Tide-Water railway enterprise he undertook a great outside feat of his own and for a wonder succeeded. Had the ordinary man been taken over that route and told what Flagler intended to do he would have been certain that it could not be done. Yet there is the wonderful road at one place spanning 27 miles of the open ocean a mighty monument of human genius and enterprise.

The most absurd decision ever rendered in Ohio was in dragging the old Ordinance of 1787 into the Boote case. There was no sense, reason, law, fairness or equity in it. It was done merely as a pretense to rehabilitate that old document and scare off the Initiative and the Referendum. We can't enumerate the births, can't reform the jury law and can't stop bribery and corruption because of an old ordinance which has been superseded by two State Constitutions. When the Constitution was made it carried all the doctrines of the Ordinance and the latter was no longer needed as its provisions were amplified by the mandates of the organic law and those again by statutory provisions. These men who go to the Ordinance of '87 to get a bar to progress must first give it a meaning never intended by its authors and moreover it is obsolete anyhow.

Col. Roosevelt has had the best of it for the past twenty-four hours. More than half the Republicans in the Con-Con at Columbus have announced for him, a club at Springfield, Illinois, declared for him, North Dakota Republicans are moving for him, Gov. Osborn of Michigan is for Roosevelt, a big club at Newark, New Jersey, declared for the Rough Rider, and Gov. Johnson of California is on his way to visit the Colonel.

There are said to be five political headquarters down at Columbus. These are the Taft Republican in charge of Chairman Laylin, the La Follette Republican in charge of Mr. John D. Fackler, the Roosevelt Republican in charge of Karshner and Brown, the Harmon Democratic in charge of the Governor's lieutenants, and the anti-Harmon in charge of Lentz and Durbin. Those ought to afford a sufficient latitude for varying opinions.

The case of the fossils must be bad at Columbus when they try to give the great Ordinance of 1787 a meaning it never was intended to have by its illustrious author, Judge Dane. That Ordinance was intended to promote freedom and protect the rights of men and not to cloak special privileges and become a bulwark to predatory wealth.

The defection of Gov. Hadley of Missouri, Gov. Glascock of West Virginia, Gov. Osborn of Michigan, Gov. McGovern of Wisconsin, Gov. Johnson of California, Gov. Aldrich of Nebraska and Gov. Stubbs of Kansas from the Taft columns is seriously felt by the managers. And the Philippine savages have deserted his colors, also.

Somebody who has kept count says there would be no population in China to die of famine if all the reports of people who have been reported to us as perishing there had been true. The four hundred million limit has been reached. In other words Chinese famine reports are now taken at a discount.

When the Illinois Central was Harrimanized and DeFisher, Mr. Harahan was placed in charge by the head octopus but they failed to include the automatic signals which are indispensable to safety. That neglect cost Mr. Harahan and six others their lives.

Governor Goldsborough of Maryland, ex-Congressman Tom Kyle of Troy, the Sixth Iowa district, and a few scattering others have come out for Taft.

Some fire bug seems to have a grievance against Masonic temples as three have been burned recently.

Current Comment.

Unkindness of All.
One of the most damaging blows Mr. Taft has received was the qualified endorsement of him given by Senator Joe Bailey at New Haven.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

A Happy Ending.
"Has your new novel a happy ending?"
"Very. The Judge awards my heroine \$50,000 a year alimony in the closing chapter."—Detroit Free Press.

Unable To See.
"Would you want your wife or your mother or your sister, to have to mingle with men at the polls?"
"I can't see why it would be any worse than mingling with them in overcrowded cars."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Wait for the Real.
Of course we won't get the proper perspective on this Wilson-Harvey incident until T. R. finds time to elucidate it in an editorial.—Philadelphia Record.

Prayer and Theft.
What has become of that Michigan newspaper that used to open the office every morning with prayer, and then put the staff to work stealing enough stuff to fill the day's edition?—Toledo Blade.

Success Assured.
The new municipal newspaper in Los Angeles will be run by a lawyer, a doctor and a real estate man. As the average citizen usually thinks that running a paper is the easiest thing in the world, the success of the Los Angeles experiment is beyond question.—Akron Beacon-Journal.

LIQUOR MATTER IN COMMITTEE

Wheeler and Andraee, Dry and Wet Leaders, Argue Case.

COMPROMISE IS PREDICTED

Con-Con. Delegates Not Expected to Follow Either Man.

Big Crowd Drawn to Capitol by First Public Hearing.

Columbus, Jan. 26.—Whether the license clause to be submitted to the people by the constitutional convention—and it seems to be assured that the convention will submit an alternative clause—shall contain restrictions sought to be imposed on the traffic, or whether these shall be left to the general assembly, was the general question debated before the liquor traffic committee yesterday.

Representing the militant drys, Superintendent Wayne B. Wheeler of the Anti-Saloon League declared he was not opposed to a restricted liquor clause for wet territory, but wanted to go with it an alternative progressive proposition, which he did not outline. Percy Andraee of Cincinnati, appearing for the Liberal League, insisted restrictions on the traffic should be left to the legislature.

Compromise Predicted.
It was on this issue that, in the first open hearing, the wet and dry forces joined the battle before at least half the delegates and crowded galleries, which, in contrast to throngs at legislative hearings, were remarkably well behaved. Both speakers were engaged in argument by members of the committee. It was freely predicted after the meeting by both license and anti-license advocates that the end probably will be a compromise, and that many restrictions on the business will be written into the organic law, in addition to safeguarding the temperance legislation now on statute books.

In addition to the fight in the hearings against any form of license, as well as against unrestricted license, the dry forces yesterday announced first arrangements for public meetings Monday and Tuesday at the Chamber of Commerce to attempt to show the license program a failure. The speakers are to be former State Treasurer Berry of Pennsylvania and Judge Pritchard of North Carolina.

Further hearings will be held by the liquor traffic committee of the convention soon.

As to Brewery Ownership.
In answer to a question from J. E. Anderson of Mahoning, Mr. Andraee yesterday said he personally was in favor of brewery ownership of all saloons, declaring that responsibility for law violation thus could be placed, and asserting that brewery-owned saloons were best regulated. Mr. Anderson declared this was not the case in Youngstown, where, he said, breweries own 80 per cent of the saloons. He asked why the brewers had sent out literature before election, declaring for the Brooks law of Pennsylvania, forbidding brewery ownership. Mr. Andraee denied responsibility for the literature.

Delegate Marshall of Coshocton created amusement by challenging Mr. Wheeler on the general doctrine of governmental regulation of habits of the people, and switched the argument from the saloon question to the doctrine of original sin. Delegate Stephen of Tuscarawas challenged Chairman Bowdler's manner of introducing the speakers, declaring he paid Andraee a compliment on his scholarship, while he abruptly said to Mr. Wheeler, "You're ready to begin business." Mr. Bowdler apologized and declared he meant no offense to the dry leader.

Saloon Men of Character.
The discussion was marked by raising of issue of fact. Mr. Wheeler declared the wets really want no regulation, while Mr. Andraee said the license program had its foundation in the desire to break "the unholy alliance between the bootleggers and the Anti-Saloon League."

Mr. Andraee traced the history of the no-license clause in the constitution of 1851, and declared its deliberate purpose was to make the traffic so irrepressible that the drys eventually could succeed in having it abolished. Proceeding on this theory, he said: What would be thought of men, who

believing the consumption of well water to be fraught with danger to deprive the people of the right to sink and use wells, would deliberately pass a law forbidding them to encase their wells and thus protect them against contamination from the surrounding earth, with the purpose of allowing sewage and other deadly matter to seep into them unhindered and thereby render them so dangerous and injurious to the community at large that, for the sake of pure self-preservation, it would consent to abolish them altogether? Substitute the word saloon for the word well and this is exactly what was done, and done deliberately, by those who, 60 years ago, deprived the saloon of its one and only safeguard against the intrusion of evil and vicious elements, namely, a license imposing restrictions as to the character and number of persons permitted to engage in the saloon business.

In taking the license from the liquor traffic they took from it, knowingly, that which corresponds with the encasement of a well, in other words, its only protection against the sewage and foul matter that is likely to seep into it from the outside; and having done this, they heaped insult onto injury by adding a paragraph to their no-license clause sarcastically empowering the legislature to pass laws providing against the evils arising from the traffic they had thus designedly left unprotected against them. Could a more cruel piece of irony be conceived?

SAALOON MEN OF CHARACTER.
It is nothing less than a marvel that, under such conditions as these, the saloon business of this state generally should have maintained the standard of respectability which it has. For, in spite of all that has been said and written about the lawless majority, the fact is that an overwhelming majority of the saloonkeepers of the state are men of good character and staunch principles. Indeed, I venture to say that, with every means thus denied them of protecting their business against the corrupting influences that have been permitted to assail it, they have struggled against those influences with a success which the members of few trades and professions—and I do not except even the most exalted—would, under like circumstances, have achieved.

Mr. Andraee charged the drys with deliberately creating evil, hoping thereby to accomplish their purpose to make the state dry. He referred to the enactment of the Ross county option law and repudiation of its operation after three years' operation in a

large majority of the counties. He asserted the wets were ready to join with the Anti-Saloon League in enactment of a real regulatory measure but the drys had persistently refused. He closed with a strong appeal to take the question out of politics.

ITS ALL LICENSE FORMS.
Mr. Wheeler's main argument was directed against license in any form, declaring it was setting up a monopoly in the business and because he declared the traffic was inherently bad. He said:

Under the present constitution, which prevents licensing the liquor traffic, full power is given to provide against the evils that result from it. Local option laws, covering residence districts, villages, townships, cities and counties, have been enacted. Regulatory laws have been passed.

The power in the constitution has by no means been exhausted. Under that power, saloons may be further regulated or reduced in number. The only reason this power, which lies dormant in the constitution, has not been used to restrict the liquor traffic, is that the liquor interests have prevented it in the general assembly.

If no added power is given to restrict or prohibit the traffic in a license clause to be submitted, it is clearly a backward step. If some new power is given, then it is a forward step.

On the other hand, in the proposals thus far introduced, the license system would protect the speakeasy in dry territory. It repeals the \$1,000 tax and the secret service department. He charged the wets with bad faith and declared the promised restrictions are conspicuous by their absence. He then went into a general review of the fight and charged that the wets never brought in a real regulatory law.

Mr. Wheeler concluded with merely a suggestion of what his alternative no-license clause would be. He said: If any license clause is submitted to the people, then fair play would suggest that some alternative go with it to give the people an opportunity to make advancement in banishing the saloon. No good reason should be given for extending privileges to an evil traffic and give no opportunity to the inherent rights of home and the public welfare by submitting some proposition in their interest.

The ideal toward which every progressive temperance worker looks is the prohibition of the liquor traffic from the state. I recognize the objection which some of this committee, and some others, have to this kind of a law. We are told that it cannot be enforced in Cincinnati, Cleveland, To-

ledeo and other large cities. He asserted the wets were ready to join with the Anti-Saloon League in enactment of a real regulatory measure but the drys had persistently refused. He closed with a strong appeal to take the question out of politics.

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\$1.50 U'r'r \$1.20	\$4 Underwear \$3.20	\$1.50 Scarfs	\$1.20
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Sweaters		\$2.50 Scarfs	\$2.00
		Pajamas	20% Off
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80 Per cent. of Big Criminals Are College Men.

Pittsburgh, Pa., Jan. 26.—"Eighty per cent. of what might be called the 'big criminals' are college men," Judge Ben R. Lindsey, of Denver, told the University of Pittsburgh students.

Sealed proposals will be received at the office of Harry E. Mason, city auditor, Marion, Ohio, until noon January 27, 1912, for the deposit of funds of the city of Marion. Bids should be made in accordance with the provision of ordinance No. 2, passed by the council of said city Jan. 5, 1912.

Harry E. Mason, City Auditor.

OBITUARY.
Cassius C. Holt died at the home of his sister, Mrs. Ole Jones on Olney avenue, Sunday, Jan. 21, as the result of a long illness of complicated diseases.

Mr. Holt had been in failing health at his home in Wisconsin for several years, but it was not until recently that his condition became serious. When it became certain that Mr. Holt's death was only a matter of a few weeks time, he expressed the wish that he might be taken to the home of his sister, Mrs. Jones, in Marion.

Five weeks ago, he came to this city, with his little son, Chester, and his grandmother. A few days before his death, he was converted to Christianity, through the efforts of Rev. D. N. Kelly, of the Wesley Methodist church, who preached the burial sermon, on Tuesday morning.

Mr. Holt was aged 35 years, 5 months and 16 days, and was born in Calhoun, Union county. He was united in marriage to Miss May Winchester, who with five children, survives the death of her husband. Two sisters, two brothers and a half-brother are also living.

Funeral services will be held at 2 o'clock Monday afternoon at the residence of Mrs. Jones.

Interment will be in the Marion cemetery.

D. A. TERRY
Phone 168.

Oranges, Bananas, Pineapples, Grapes, Cranberries, Sweet Potatoes, Apples, Celery, Lettuce, Sweet Cider, Just opened barrel Dill Sweet and Sour Pickles, Maple Syrup, Buckwheat Flour, Pancake Flour, Sorghum Molasses. We deliver you the goods promptly.

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